

**HOPE VALLEY/WYOMING FIRE DISTRICT  
996 MAIN STREET  
HOPE VALLEY, RI 02832**

**BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING  
MAY 26, 2016  
7:00 P.M.**

**Those present:** Board Members: Chairman, Pasquale DeBernardo, Vice-Chairman, Elwood Johnson, Georgia Ure, Paul Schaarschmidt; Chief, Justin Lee; Captain David Dumsar; Treasurer, Deborah Nicotra; Tax Collector, Susan Bok; District Clerk, Julie Kelley

**Those not present:** Board Member: John Weeden

This meeting was called to work on the proposed budget for fiscal year July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017.

The meeting commenced and was called to order by Chair, Pasquale DeBernardo at 7:00 p.m. with a salute to the flag and a moment of silence.

The purpose of this meeting is to review the budget with the proposed changes as discussed at the last meeting on May 19, 2016 with the exception to salaries, stipends etc. The board did not go into Executive Session this evening, as there were no public members in attendance at the commencement of the meeting.

The board reviewed the new budget with proposed changes that were discussed during the last meeting. This budget now reflects the current Blue Cross Blue Shield rates. In addition, a stipend account was added for a payroll company in preparation of possibly utilizing an outside payroll company.

The board discussed that each of the employees are doing a great job. It was discussed that Ms. Bok has been doing a great job and Ms. Nicotra stated that Ms. Bok's workload has increased as she has been assisting the Treasurer with additional tasks and doing a great job with them. Chief Lee commented that Captain David Dumsar has been doing a great job for the district and has been working very hard.

It was proposed to have a 2.90% increase for salary increases for each of the employees. With this increase and utilizing last year evaluations it would increase the tax rate from \$1.14/\$1,000.00 to \$1.17/\$1,000.00.

The board proposed the following changes:

Reduce Acct. # 9030 - Legal Expenses by \$500.00 and add that to Acct. # 5106 - District Clerk in addition to the proposed 2.90% increase.

**Gross Wages**

Acct. # 5101 – Gross-Chief from \$67,000.00 to \$69,010.00

Acct. # 5102 – Gross-Administrator/Tax Collector from \$30,489.00 to \$31,404.00

Acct. # 5103 – Maintenance Driver from \$46,009.00 to \$47,389.00

Acct. # 5104 – Treasurer from \$21,112.00 to \$21,745.00

Acct. # 5106 – District Clerk from \$4,000.00 to \$4,700.00

Acct. # 5111 – Custodian from \$2,600.00 to \$2,678.00

The current tax rate is \$1.14/\$1,000.00. With these proposed increases the tax rate would go to \$1.18/\$1,000.00 or \$.03 or \$.04 cents/\$1,000.00.

Mr. Schaarschmidt indicated that he would like to increase Acct. # 6110 – Truck Maintenance from \$35,000.00 to \$45,000.00. The board discussed that with that increase it would take the budget over 3%. With a house at a value of \$200,000.00 at a tax rate of \$1.20 it would be an increase of \$14.00 or about 4.34 % increase. The board then discussed a change in the increase from \$35,000.00 to \$40,000.00. The board took a vote to see if the board agreed on the proposed increase, two (2) in favor, two (2) opposed, tie vote failed. It was discussed that they felt it best to leave the Truck Maintenance where it was and increase it for next year.

The board discussed utilizing an outside Payroll company. It was discussed that the district prints approximately 304 checks +/- as a base number. Ms. Nicotra felt the pricing they received were consistent with other places as it is based on the number of paychecks. The board discussed that they would like to go out to bid. After further discussion, the board agreed that since the proposals would be under \$5,000.00, instead of going out to bid they would obtain a total of three (3) competitive proposals.

Chief Lee inquired if the board had time to review his proposal on the financing of the ladder truck and commented that he raised Acct. # 9570 – Dime Bank – Loan # 2 to pay it off in anticipation of the Ladder Truck purchase. The FHA loan is the cheapest at this point in time.

**ADJOURN**

A motion was made to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Ure and Mr. Schaarschmidt. With no further discussion, all in favor, all aye, motion passed unanimously (4-0).

Mr. DeBernardo-yes; Mr. Johnson-yes; Ms. Ure-yes; Mr. Schaarschmidt-yes

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Kelley  
District Clerk